VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Stroke Rehabilitation

KEY POINTS

- The primary goal of rehabilitation is to **prevent complications, minimize impairments, and maximize function.**
- Secondary prevention is fundamental to **preventing stroke recurrence.**
- Early assessment and intervention is critical to optimize rehabilitation.
- **Standardized** evaluations and valid assessment tools are essential to the development of a comprehensive treatment plan.
- Evidence-based interventions should be based on functional goals.
- Every candidate for rehabilitation should have access to an **experienced and coordinated** rehabilitation team to ensure optimal outcome.
- The patient and family and/or caregiver are essential members of the rehabilitation team.
- Patient and family education improves informed decision-making, social adjustment, and maintenance of rehabilitation gains.
- The rehabilitation team should utilize community resources for community reintegration.
- Ongoing medical management of risk factors and co-morbidities is essential to ensure survival.



VA access to full guideline: http://www.oqp.med.va.gov/cpg/cpg.htm DoD access to full guideline: http://www.qmo.amedd.army.mil

October 2002



Sponsored & produced by the VA Employee Education System in cooperation with the Offices of Quality & Performance and Patient Care Services and the Department of Defense.